



Rosalie Elliott SL
June 24, 1919 – May 4, 2009

Rosemary Elliot was born June 24, 1919, in Denver, Colorado, and attended Blessed Sacrament Grade School, Cathedral High School, and Loretto Heights College. In 1940, she began teaching Chemistry and Physics as well as grades one thru four in a country school. In 1941, she entered Loretto and was first at Sterling, Illinois, then Holy Family in Denver, Loretto Academy in Santa Fe, Montgomery Catholic High in 1955, and moved to St. Mary of Loretto where she remained from 1958-1962 at which time she became Superior of the Sisters assigned to St. Agnes Regional High in Springfield, Missouri.

In 1964 Rosalie had two new appointments — Superior at Loretto Academy in El Paso and First Provincial Councilor, of the Southern Province.

In the school newspaper that year, we find the following — “One of the most important new faces at school this year is that of Sister Mary Rosalie, who is both superior of the Loretto Convent and Chemistry teacher in the high school. ‘It’s so big I’ll probably need roller skates to get around’, Sister said when she first saw the 20 acre campus.’

In 1967 Sister Rosalie was reappointed Superior of the Loretto Academy Community. Elisa Rodriguez remembers — “I came to live in El Paso as a very

young sister. At that time, Rosalie was the superior of the house. We had something like 98 sisters living at the Academy (we still had boarders) and at the convent. Rosalie seemed to be there for all of us. When she saw that one of us needed a special time, she would invite us, one at a time to go for a drive. We talked on the way and she learned a lot about each one of us. We saw lovely sunsets, beautiful and desert scenes. She was always interested in our families, our work, our vocation. She let us know that Loretto was lucky to have us in the community. I loved her spirit, her calmness, her red hair. She was really a wonderful superior."

Rita Rinker remembers — "Roz was one of my special friends. When she lived in Denver, I always went to her home for a visit. She cooked the meals, and were they ever delicious! She drove me up to the mountains very often where we enjoyed ourselves. She was such a joy to be with. I have great love for her! She was also a great superior at El Paso back in the 60's. She also had a great interest in my many undertakings".

In an *Interchange* article dated November 1994, Rosalie wrote: "I had always wanted to be a nurse, specifically in a poor mission in China. That never came about. Therefore, in 1972 I decided to settle for nursing some of the poor people of Denver. At age fifty-four, I received my LPN and a job in Denver General Hospital. The patients were poor indeed.

"Working the 3-11 pm shift enabled me to be free mornings to take classes for an RN degree. This obtained for me a job in the intensive care unit for brain-injured people (1975-77). The hardest part of that job was consoling the families of patients, many of whom were very young.

"Later I transferred to the City's Home Visiting Nurse Service in the slums of lower downtown and Five Points. When VNS closed four and a half years later, I became a volunteer visiting nurse for the members of a low income district parish afternoons, and worked in Mary Ann Gleason SL's Stout Street Clinic for homeless people."

Rosalie also served on a medical/service team in Prescott, Arizona from 1982-84. She then worked in Holistic Health for the Loretto Community, and from 1987-1989 Roz served as a Community Health Nurse in Lakewood, Colorado; in 1989 she continued to aid the sick of Lakewood as a Visiting Nurse and clinic nurse. At the age of 75 Roz had a clinic one day a week for homeless people at a day shelter in downtown Denver provided by the Episcopal Church.

In mid-August of 2000, Rosalie, Helen Ann Reynolds, and Julia Ann McEntee moved to the Motherhouse property and took up residence in "Clare House" formerly known as the "Wheatley House." Rosalie moved into the Infirmary in 2000 where she remained, receiving loving care, and special attention from her good friend, Julia Ann McEntee.

Rosalie, you gave yourself wholeheartly to the service of others with peace and love. God bless you!